

Ag Tour Rolls Through the Community

In May, Rep. Nunes held his 3rd Annual Central Valley Ag Tour with more than 40 community and business leaders. The day-long tour took the group by charter bus to six locations for a behind-the-scenes look at the nation's most diverse and productive agricultural region. Traveling with the group as the Congressman's special guest was California's State Director of USDA Rural Development, Ben Higgins. Mr. Higgins was appointed by USDA Secretary Mike Johanns in March of 2006 and has a background in the cattle industry. This year's tour included stops at Bravo Farms, Campos Brothers Almonds, A-G Sod Farms, Kearney Agriculture Center, Ruiz Foods, and Family Tree Farm.



California State Director of Rural Development Ben Higgins and Rep. Nunes discuss agriculture issues at Bravo Farms

Keep Our Economy Growing

Despite months of languishing, H.R. 4297, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act, was finally passed by Congress. This important piece of legislation extends a number of tax cuts that have spurred economic growth and reduced the unemployment rate since first going into effect in 2003.

Specifically, H.R. 4297 prevents several current-law tax provisions from expiring in the near future. These provisions affect a broad spectrum of taxpayers, including investors, job creators, and middle-income families. The two largest pieces of the bill are the extension of the lower tax rates on capital gains and dividends and the extension of the alternative minimum tax (AMT) protection.

I was privileged to join the President at the White House on May 18th for the signing of this historic bill and believe that we must continue to pass more pro-growth legislation to continue our economy's successful recovery over the past three years.

Additionally, on June 22nd, I supported the passage of H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act. This bill would permanently eliminate the estate tax or "death tax" for 99.7% of all Americans. Those who are still required to pay the estate tax would have much lower rates.

This would provide much needed clarity for small businesses and family farms in the San Joaquin Valley who



Congressman Nunes joins President Bush and a select group of colleagues on the South Lawn of the White House for the signing of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act.

have struggled for years with the cumbersome and job killing death tax.

Many have sought a full repeal of the law, but this compromise is seen as a positive step in the right direction towards fairness and equity in the tax code. Under current law, the estate tax gradually declines until it is fully eliminated in 2010. However, in 2011, the tax returns in full force. In contrast, H.R. 5638 would permanently reduce the estate tax on Americans beginning in 2010. The new rate would be 20% on all estates under \$25 million and 40% for estates over \$25 million. The exemption level would also be increased to \$5 million per person.